

crenate, acute, coriaceous, nearly glabrous; sori dorsal, indusia broad, firm, reniform.

Specimen examined: Panigrahi 6920.

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CEROPEGIA MACCANNII ANSARI—A NEW SPECIES

***Ceropegia maccannii* Ansari sp. nov.**

Ceropegiae panchganiensis Blatt. et McCann affinis corollae tubo anguste cylindrico et corona, sed differt cymis multifloris, corolla minus 2.4 cm longa, tubo in dimidio inferiore perinflato, lobis minutis, corona interiore alba, erecto-divergenti. Differt a *C. lawii* Hk. f. corollae coroneaeque forma et amplitudine.

Holotypus (*Ansari 97574A*) et isotypi (*Ansari 97574 B-F*) lecti ad Sinhagadh hills in dist. Pune, ditone Maharashtra die 7 Augusti, anni 1964; holotypus positus in CAL; isotypi *Ansari 97574 B & C* in BSI; *D* in CAL; *E* in K; *F* in BLAT.

***Ceropegia maccannii* Ansari sp. nov.**

Similar to *Ceropegia panchganiensis* Blatt. et McC. in its narrow cylindrical corolla tube and corona but differs in cymes being many flowered; corolla under 2.4 cm long, tube largely inflated in the lower half, lobes very small, inner corona white, erecto-divergent. Also differs from *C. lawii* Hook. f. in the shape and size of the corolla and corona.

The holotype (*Ansari 97574A*) and isotypes (*Ansari 97574 B-F*) were collected

from Sinhagadh hills in Pune district, Maharashtra State on 7-8-1964; holotype is deposited in CAL; and isotypes *Ansari 97574 B-C* in BSI; *D* in CAL; *E* in K; *F* in BLAT.

***Ceropegia maccannii* Ansari sp. nov. *C. lawii* auct. plur. non Hook. f.; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bomb. 2: 175. 1904, p.p.; Huber in Mem. Soc. Broter. 12. 67. 1957. p.p.; Sant. et Irani in Bull. Bot. Soc. Beng. 12: 8. 1958, p.p.; Venkata Reddi in Willdenowia 5: 32. t. 1 & 2. 1968; Hemadri in Bull. bot. Surv. India 10: 125. t. 1, f. 3 & 3A. 1968; Ansari et Kulkarni in Indian Forester 97: 689. t. f. B3. 1971.**

Erect herbs, 30-100 cm high with subglobose tuberous roots. Stems firm, terete, pubescent above. Leaves 9-12 × 4-6 cm, ovate-lanceolate, acute or acuminate, base mostly acute, sometimes rounded, hairy above glabrous beneath except nerves; petiole 1-2 cm long, hairy and grooved above. Flowers 6-10 in lateral subumbellate cymes; peduncles upto 3.5 cm long, hirsute; bracts 3-4 mm long; pedicels 6-10 mm long, hairy. Calyx 4-5 mm long, hairy on the dorsal side. Corolla 1.7-2.3 cm long, curv-

ed; tube 1.5-2.0 cm long with largely inflated base (8-10×6-7 mm) in the lower half, merging into narrow cylindrical part above, purplish-grey outside, dark purple with inconspicuous greenish-white streaks inside, glabrous inside except for a ring of white hairs at the bottom of the inflated base only; lobes 2-3×2 mm, obovate, acute at tips, creamy white outside, yellowish-

margins and inside; inner corona thick, fleshy, hairy, sub-clavate, *ca* twice as long as the outer, white, erecto-divergent. Ovary 1.55-2.0 mm long, bicarpellary; pollen masses yellow. Follicles in pairs, 15×0.5 cm, glabrous. Seeds small, comose (Figs. 1-4).

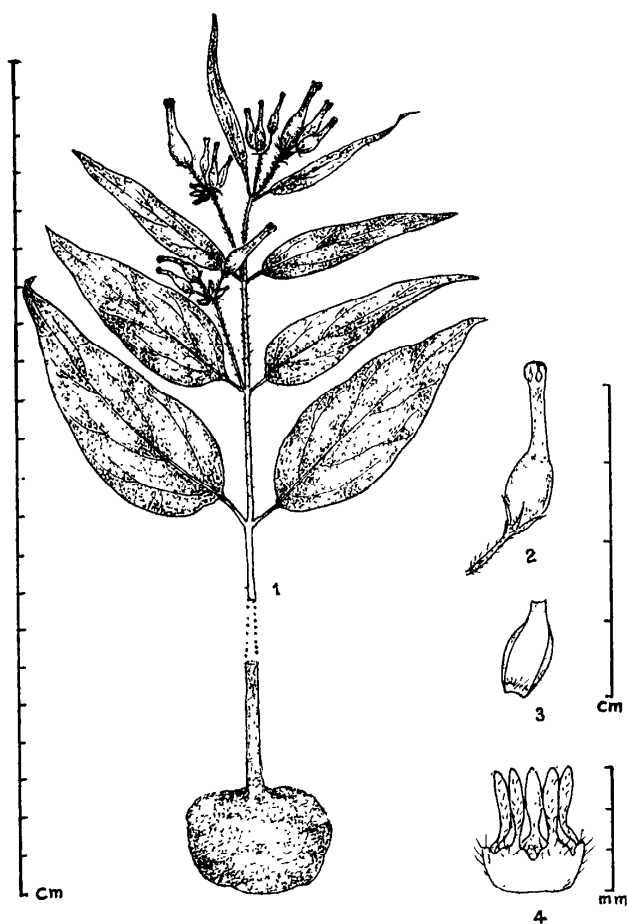
Kharpudi (Mar.)

Fls.: July-August. *Frts.*: Sept.-Oct.

Distribution: Western India; endemic to Maharashtra.

Specimens examined (Only flowering specimens): Pune District: Purandhar, Blatter 21900; Santapau 7125, 7128-29 (BLAT); Rolla Rao 88649; Sinhadagdh hills, Puri 5679, 5681; Cooke s. n.; Ansari 97574, 99846, 99973, 101207; V. Reddi 101207A (BSI).

Being erect and broad-leaved this species was mistaken for *C. lawii* Hook. f.—the only species then known from Western India. Similarly, the other erect and broad-leaved *Ceropegias* from this region, viz. *C. panchganiensis* Blatt. et McCann (in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 36: 534-535. 1933) and *C. sahyadrica* Ans. et Kulk. (1971) were also mistaken for *C. lawii*. The identity of *C. lawii* Hook. f. was not clear to most workers (including the author). Under the circumstances, Venkata Reddi (1968) amended the description of *C. lawii* Hook. f. and included the present new species which happened to be fairly represented in herbaria under the name *C. lawii*. It was only after the recent collections (made after a lapse of considerable time) of true *C. lawii* Hook. f. (*Wadhwa* 12773 at BSI; Type photo! CAL) and true *C. panchganiensis* Blatt. et McC. (*Ansari* 105090, BSI), which faithful to their respective protologues that the present new species was noticed as distinct from the others. The salient distinguishing features of *C. maccannii* and *C. lawii* Hook. f. are tabulated below.



Ceropegia maccannii Ansari sp. nov.

Figs. 1-4 : 1. A whole plant with a tuber. 2. A flower. 3. A dissected part of the inflated base showing a ring of hairs inside at base. 4. A corona.

orange inside, glabrous, connate at tips forming a minute obovate or obconic head 2-3 mm in diameter. Outer corona cupular, 5-lobed, each with a short notch in the middle or slightly bifid, hairy along the

Salient features	<i>C. maccannii</i> sp. nov.	<i>C. lawii</i> Hk. f.
<i>Flowers</i>	1.7 to 2.3 cm long	Over 2.5 cm, up to 3.5 cm long
<i>Corolla tube</i>	Base largely inflated in the lower 1/2 of the tube, the upper half narrow, uniformly cylindrical	Base slightly inflated in the lower 1/3 of the tube, the upper 2/3 subcylindrical gently enlarging towards the mouth.
<i>Corolla lobes</i>	2-3 mm long, glabrous	6-7 mm long, hairy or glabrous
<i>Outer corona</i>	Cupular, 5 lobed, each lobe notched or shortly bifid in the middle	Saucer-shaped, of 10 equal sized, obtuse lobes
<i>Inner corona</i>	Thick, sub-clavate, erect-divergent, ca twice as long as outer, hairy all over	Terete, linear, erect, ca 4-5 times longer than outer, sparsely hairy towards base.

Among the Indian *Ceropegias*, the present new species has the smallest corolla-lobes (2-3 mm long). Even under cultivation, though the vegetative parts may gain in size, but the flowers do not increase beyond 2.3 cm in length. At present restricted to Pune district, but likely to be found on hill tops of adjacent areas of other districts also.

ETYMOLOGY

This species is named in honour of Charles McCann, the renowned botanist who was closely associated with the study of the Flora of Western India in general

and of the genus *Ceropegia* Linn. in particular.

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A NEW NAME FOR AN INDIAN *DESMODIUM* DESV. (FABACEAE)

Baker (1876) erected a species, *Desmodium rotundifolium* based on a collection of Ritchie from the plains of Concan in Western Peninsular India. This name was adopted by Cooke (1902) and others. This is a later homonym of *Desmodium rotundifolium* DC. (Prodr. 2: 330. 1825) from North America. The American species is characterised by trifoliolate leaves, while the Indian species by unifoliolate leaves. Hence, a new name is proposed for the Indian species.

Desmodium ritchiei Sanjappa, *nom. nov.* *D. rotundifolium* Baker in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 172. 1876, *non* DC. 1825; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 381. 1902, *pro parte* (Ritchie 288); Shah, Fl. Gujarat 209. 1978. *Alysicarpus rotundifolium* Dalz. ex Baker in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 172. 1876, *pro syn.* *A. beddomei* sensu Chavan & Oza, Fl. Pavagadh, 72, 1966, *non* Schindler, 1927.

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